

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: December 11, 2022
TO: LOCAL NEWS MEDIA

ISSUED BY: Peter Hague for Penny Borenstein, M.D.
Health Officer, San Luis Obispo County

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

CONTACT: Scott Buffalo, Correctional Plant Manager II, California Mens' Colony;
(805) 547-7974

Background: Pursuant to AB 800 the local health officer and the director of environmental health shall immediately notify the public of a discharge of a hazardous substance or sewage to the waters of the state if it is necessary to safeguard public health and safety.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following report was received from the following person or entity on the date set forth below:

REPORTING PERSON OR ENTITY NAME: Tom Reed, California Mens' Colony

ADDRESS: Hwy 1 N, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409

PHONE: (805) 547-79714

SUBSTANCE OF REPORT:

DESCRIPTION

A large, unknown volume of primary treated sewage was released into Chorro Creek, due to equipment malfunction as a result of the heavy rain. Sewage overflowed from the sewer treatment plant and entered Chorro Creek. The spill started at about midnight on Sunday and was stopped at about 9 AM. The plant was functioning normally as of 9AM. Ocean water sample will be taken on Monday at Morro Bay City Beach and Morro Strand State Beach on Monday morning.

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department advises the public to avoid ocean water contact during, and at least three days following, significant rainstorms—such as the recent storm.

Rainstorm runoff is known to transport high levels of disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses and protozoa from the watershed and urban areas to the ocean. Such organisms carried into the ocean can cause skin, respiratory, and intestinal problems. Young children, older adults, and people with compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to these waterborne pathogens.

Surfers, swimmers and others are advised to avoid contact with ocean water during this period, especially in areas close to creeks, rivers, storm drains and other runoff outlets that empty into the ocean.

For more information about beach water quality, please visit the Public Health Department Beach Water Quality website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth/ehs/beach, or call the Ocean Water Monitoring Program Telephone Hotline at (805) 788-3411.

Peter Hague for Penny Borenstein
COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

December 11, 2022, 2:00 PM
DATE and TIME

c: News Media
 Board of Supervisors